

Andrew Jackson to Reuben Rowland, May 10, 1841, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>TO REUBEN ROWLAND. 1

1 Cashier of the Bank of Kentucky in Hopkinsville, Ky.

Hermitage, May 10, 1841.

Sir, Mr. William Nichol President of the Bank of Tennessee, Nashville, has shewn me your letter to him of the 6th instant on the subject of a note given by A. Jackson and myself security to Mr. Morrison and deposited by him in your Bank as colateral security. After stating the facts of this case, I will leave the Bank and Mr. Morrison to take such course in the premises as by you may be deemed best.

In the year 1838 Andrew Jackson jnr. bought of Ex. Governor Runnels a tract of land in the state of Mississippi, and entered into written agreement about the same, and at the time it was fully agreed and understood between them that the consideration was to be paid in the union Bank notes of Mississippi, or in Tennessee current Bank notes—in this transaction I had no concern.

In February 1840 Mr. Morrison came to my House with a letter from Governor Runnels to A. Jackson jnr. introducing Mr. Morrison to us, and requesting (among other things) that A. Jackson junr. would give to Mr. Morrison his note for $2670 , payable on the first day of March 1841 in part consideration for said land requesting me to sign it as security, which request I complied with, it being first well understood, that this note should be paid here in current Bank notes of Tennessee. To verify this Govr. Runnels had received in part

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payment Mr. Claytons notes payable in Tennessee Bank notes, and transferred one to Mr. Morrison who presented one to me to guarantee the solvancy of Mr. Clayton.

In January last Mr. Morrison again called at my House, introduced the subject of said note, and wanted me to give him a bill upon Neworleans, when I informed him that the proceeds of my cotton were I 0134 110 expected in transitu, that I could not give him a bill, that the premiums asked by the Banks were too high, I could not bear the loss etc etc, but that in any Bank in Nashville I would make the deposit to meet this note at maturity, with which Mr. Morrison appeared well pleased, observing he had no doubt but it would meet the views of the Bank at Hopkinsville where he had deposited said note and requested me to write so to the Bank, on which I directed A. Jackson Jnr. to do so, sent it to you by Mr. Morrison, which you have recd., and I made the necessary arrangements with the state Bank of Tennessee, and made the deposit there to fully meet our note when it fell due. The next thing I heard from the President of the Bank, William Nichol Esqr, was that he had recd. a letter from you enquiring if he would collect the sd. note, that he had in reply informed you that the full amount was deposited there in Tennessee Bank notes, with directions to pay on presentation of the note. I would remark our note was not made in Kentucky, nor was it made payable in Kentucky notes nor in her Banks—it was made here, well understood by all parties to be discharged in current notes of Tennessee. I have no wish to make war on the Banks in their suspended state, But if the Banks begin to make war on individuals, to aid sharpers and swindlers, I for one, will endeavour to defend myself, and when, contrary to the clear understanding of the parties, specie is demanded of me, their notes will be presented at the counter and if not cashed, when I am sued, as threatened, I must sue also.

Mr. Morrison was introduced to me as a gentleman. Believing him to be such this transaction was entered into, but should he turn out to be a sharper and a swindler, as from existing circumstances I may have a right to fear, I thank my god that there are courts of Equity in our land, which will shield the honest and unsuspecting from their Grasp.

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In good faith I have complied with this obligation into which I was induced, without the least interest in the case, by the solicitation of all those originally concerned, and to satisfy Mr. Morrison of the certainty of his receiving his pay in Tennessee Bank notes when due, the mony is in Bank to meet this note, and if I am to be sued, as threatened, I will, and must defend myself. I have only to add, that I am now in my seventy fifth year of age, and it is the first time in my life, that I have been sued, or threatened to be sued for debt, and that by Mr. Morrison with whom I have complied and am ready to comply with all engagements agreeable to his and my understanding of all transactions between us. I have allways resisted the oppressor, the sharper or swindler and will as long as I live.

With these facts for the satisfaction of the Bank, I leave the matter. The mony is in Bank —there I leave it for Mr. Morrison or his assigns, no other payment will I make. I am very respectfully

your most obdt. Servt.

P.S. I am willing to leave this matter to any two disinterested men A. J.